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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 8 August 1995 from the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva requests that the attached letter be circulated as an official document at the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission, under agenda item 6.

(Signed) Vladimir Pavićević,
Ambassador

GE.95-13307 (E)

Geneva, 9 August 1995

Dear Mr. Fall,

Upon instruction of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I have the honour to transmit the request to urgently send a fact-finding mission for establishing evidence on flagrant violations of humanitarian law and the respective provisions of international conventions on human rights and crimes against humanity, caused by the Croatian aggression on Serb Krajina.

By its acts against the civilian Serb population, and the massive ethnic cleansing aimed at forming an ethnically clean Croatia, the Zagreb authorities are violating all the provisions of the international human rights conventions, particularly those pertaining to the crime of genocide.

In particular, I should like to point out that the aggression on the Republic of Serb Krajina is the final stage of ethnic cleansing in this part of the Republic of Serb Krajina, since over 95 per cent of the population had to flee the region to the Republic of Srpska and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As for the failure to appoint a new special rapporteur on human rights upon Tadeusz Mazowiecki's resignation, one is under the impression that his resignation, even if pretentiously linked with the events in Srebrenica, has been coordinated with the Croat aggression, whereby making an official report is being evaded. It is evident that we are faced with yet another case of covering up or reducing the crimes to a minimum, similar to the case of Western Slavonija.

From several sources, we are getting reports on massive crimes committed by the Croat forces against the Serb civilian population and prisoners-of-war. The Croat forces do not respect laws of war by, inter alia, forcing civilians and UNPROFOR members to serve as live shields in front of their tanks. United Nations high officials also refer to these crimes. We should in particular draw your attention to the statements made by Carl Bildt, one of the co-chairmen of the Conference on the former Yugoslavia and the European Union mediator.

If the international community this time, again, fails to objectively assess the situation and to inform itself on the crimes of the Croats even though the credibility of Croatia in the human rights field was severely shaken even in the former Yugoslavia, this will imply that the international community is openly taking sides with one party to the conflict, thus rejecting the fundamental principles and norms upon which it is based and which indeed it has developed.

Mr. Ibrahima Fall
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights
Geneva

I would appreciate it if you informed the members and the Chairman of the current session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights about the above-mentioned, with a request that they take all the measures in their power to help the Serb people of Krajina to survive.

(Signed) Vladimir Pavićević,
Ambassador